



# LAWRENCE

## Essex County



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## NARRATIVE

### **Narrative**

Lawrence's residents see the community as an older, urban, industrialized city whose history parallels that of the country as a whole. Originally a rural farming town, the city was transformed into a major industrial center when Boston entrepreneurs developed huge textile mills on the Merrimack River to use the power of its water falls. The mill owners built canals, a dam and a reservoir, boarding houses and a machine shop for locomotives, creating one of the first industrial complexes in the country. Employees came first from other parts of New England to work in the mills, but the city has traditionally served as an entry point to immigrants and by the turn of the century, Irish, Polish, Italian, Syrian and French-Canadians were following the jobs to Lawrence and setting a standard of proud diversification for the city which is maintained to this day with newcomers from the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Vietnam and Cambodia. Despite the huge technological changes over the years, the manufacture of textiles and of men's and women's clothing is still central to Lawrence's economy and some of the finest names in apparel are made in the city. City planners are working to broaden the city's industrial and business base and diversify.

(Narrative supplied by community)



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# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

Northeastern Massachusetts, bordered by Methuen on the north, Andover on the west and southwest, and North Andover on the east and southeast. Lawrence is 26 miles north of Boston; 92 miles south of Portland, Maine; and 240 miles from New York City.

**Total Area:** 7.42 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 6.97 sq. miles

**Population:** 70,207

**Density:** 10,073 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Lawrence Station)

Normal temperature in January.....24.7°F

Normal temperature in July.....72.5°F

Normal annual precipitation.....42.8"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Lawrence

## Regional Planning Agency

Merrimack Valley Region

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Lawrence



# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (978) 794-5803

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Mayor-Council

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1847

As a city: 1853

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	21,281		
Democrats	12,723	59.8	%
Republicans	2,663	12.5	%
Other parties	40	0.2	%
Unenrolled Voters	5,855	27.5	%

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Lawrence city, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	72,043	100.0	<b>HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE</b>		
<b>SEX AND AGE</b>			Total population.....	72,043	100.0
Male.....	34,499	47.8	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	43,019	59.7
Female.....	37,604	52.2	Mexican.....	316	0.4
Under 5 years.....	6,451	9.0	Puerto Rican.....	15,816	22.0
5 to 9 years.....	6,785	9.4	Cuban.....	408	0.6
10 to 14 years.....	6,384	8.9	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	26,479	36.8
15 to 19 years.....	5,718	7.9	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	29,024	40.3
20 to 24 years.....	5,712	7.9	White alone.....	24,569	34.1
25 to 34 years.....	11,348	15.8	<b>RELATIONSHIP</b>		
35 to 44 years.....	10,512	14.6	Total population.....	72,043	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	7,583	10.5	In households.....	70,999	98.6
55 to 59 years.....	2,496	3.5	Householder.....	24,463	34.0
60 to 64 years.....	1,979	2.7	Spouse.....	8,964	12.4
65 to 74 years.....	3,190	4.4	Child.....	26,319	36.5
75 to 84 years.....	2,738	3.8	Own child under 18 years.....	20,088	27.9
85 years and over.....	1,147	1.6	Other relatives.....	6,331	8.8
Median age (years).....	29.5	(X)	Under 18 years.....	2,326	3.2
18 years and over.....	49,024	68.0	Nonrelatives.....	4,922	6.8
Male.....	22,780	31.6	Unmarried partner.....	2,234	3.1
Female.....	26,244	36.4	In group quarters.....	1,044	1.4
21 years and over.....	45,631	63.3	Institutionalized population.....	801	1.1
62 years and over.....	8,167	11.3	Noninstitutionalized population.....	243	0.3
65 years and over.....	7,075	9.8	<b>HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE</b>		
Male.....	2,656	3.7	Total households.....	24,463	100.0
Female.....	4,419	6.1	Family households (families).....	16,905	69.1
<b>RACE</b>			With own children under 18 years.....	10,136	41.4
One race.....	67,542	93.8	Married-couple family.....	8,964	36.6
White.....	35,044	48.6	With own children under 18 years.....	4,764	19.5
Black or African American.....	3,516	4.9	Female householder, no husband present.....	6,281	25.7
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	583	0.8	With own children under 18 years.....	4,481	18.3
Asian.....	1,910	2.7	Nonfamily households.....	7,558	30.9
Asian Indian.....	184	0.3	Householder living alone.....	6,233	25.5
Chinese.....	265	0.4	Householder 65 years and over.....	2,453	10.0
Filipino.....	9	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	11,263	46.0
Japanese.....	18	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	5,229	21.4
Korean.....	104	0.1	Average household size.....	2.90	(X)
Vietnamese.....	722	1.0	Average family size.....	3.46	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	608	0.8	<b>HOUSING OCCUPANCY</b>		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	71	0.1	Total housing units.....	25,601	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	6	-	Occupied housing units.....	24,463	95.6
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	6	-	Vacant housing units.....	1,138	4.4
Samoan.....	9	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	50	0.1	occasional use.....	61	0.2
Some other race.....	26,418	36.7	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	1.0	(X)
Two or more races.....	4,501	6.2	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	3.0	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			<b>HOUSING TENURE</b>		
<i>or more other races:<sup>3</sup></i>			Occupied housing units.....	24,463	100.0
White.....	38,553	53.5	Owner-occupied housing units.....	7,876	32.2
Black or African American.....	5,444	7.6	Renter-occupied housing units.....	16,587	67.8
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	921	1.3	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	3.02	(X)
Asian.....	2,194	3.0	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.85	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	196	0.3			
Some other race.....	29,545	41.0			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



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# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	522
Conventional Federal:	1,056

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	98
Federal (Section 8):	1,056



# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

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The development of transportation resources in the Merrimack River Valley, where Lawrence is situated, was shaped by the history of the region as a major site of American industrial development in the nineteenth century. The area has exceptionally good highway and rail facilities linking the major cities and towns to each other and to the port, airport, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

### Major Highways

Principal highways are Interstate Route 495, the outer belt around Boston, and Interstate Route 93, which passes along the city's western border.

### Rail

Commuter service to Boston's North Station is provided by Amtrak under contract to the MBTA. Travel time: 52-57 minutes; 164 MBTA parking spaces. The Springfield Terminal Railway offers freight service to Lawrence. Contact number: (978) 663-1073

### Bus

Lawrence is a member of the Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority (MVRTA), which provides fixed route service within the city and to other cities and towns in the region. The MVRTA and the Lawrence Council on Aging offer paratransit service to the elderly and disabled. Trombly Commuter Lines provides commuter service to Boston M-F, with limited service on Saturday.

### Other

The Lawrence Municipal Airport, a Reliever facility (RL) located in North Andover, is easily accessible. It has two asphalt runways 3,901' and 5,000' long. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision. Flight Line offers bus service to Logan Airport and Manchester Airport in New Hampshire.



# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Immigrant City Archives, Historical Society of Lawrence and Its  
People  
135 Parker Street  
(978) 686-9230  
Lawrence Heritage State Park  
1 Jackson Street  
(978) 794-1655

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

Lawrence General Hospital

### Long Term Care

Anlaw Nursing Home

Berkley Retirement Home

Mi Nursing/restorative Center

Town Manor Nursing Home

Wood Mill Rehab. & Nursing Center

### Hospices

Merrimack Valley Hospice, Inc

### Rest Homes

German Old Folks Home, inc

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)



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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.